

ASSEMBLY, No. 1983

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

Assemblywoman SHAMA A. HAIDER

District 37 (Bergen)

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District 22 (Somerset and Union)

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District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Atkins

SYNOPSIS

Requires DHS to establish public awareness campaign about period poverty.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT establishing a period poverty public awareness campaign
2 and supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. a. The Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation
8 with the Commissioner of Health, shall establish a public awareness
9 campaign to publicize and inform the general public about period
10 poverty and its economic and public health implications. The
11 campaign shall include information on, at a minimum:

12 (1) the definition of period poverty;

13 (2) the causes of period poverty;

14 (3) the number of persons in the State of New Jersey and in the
15 United States who are affected by period poverty; and

16 (4) what can be done to address the issue of period poverty
17 Statewide.

18 b. The commissioner shall, at a minimum:

19 (1) provide for the development of printed educational materials
20 and public service announcements in languages including, but not
21 limited to, English and Spanish; and

22 (2) disseminate information for distribution to the public on the
23 Departments of Human Services and Health official websites and
24 through a variety of entities, including, but not limited to, local
25 health agencies and clinics, physicians, health care facilities, county
26 human services offices, pharmacies, libraries, and other community-
27 based outreach programs and organizations.

28 c. The commissioner shall report to the Governor, and to the
29 Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1),
30 no later than 24 months after the effective date of this act, and
31 annually thereafter, on the activities and accomplishments of the
32 public awareness campaign.

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34 2. This act shall take effect immediately, except that the
35 commissioner may take any administrative action in advance as
36 shall be necessary for the implementation of this act.

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39 STATEMENT

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41 This bill directs the Commissioner of Human Services, in
42 consultation with the Commissioner of Health, to establish a public
43 awareness campaign to publicize and inform the general public
44 about period poverty and its economic and public health
45 implications. The campaign is to include information on: (1) the
46 definition of period poverty; (2) the causes of period poverty; (3)
47 the number of persons in the State of New Jersey and in the United

1 States who are affected by period poverty; and (4) what can be done
2 to address the issue of period poverty Statewide.

3 Under the provisions of the bill, the commissioner is to develop
4 educational materials and public service announcements in
5 languages including, but not limited to, English and Spanish and to
6 disseminate information for distribution to the public on the
7 Departments of Human Services and Health official websites and
8 through a variety of entities and community-based programs and
9 organizations.

10 The bill also directs the commissioner to annually report to the
11 Governor, and to the Legislature, no later than two years after the
12 effective date of the bill, and annually thereafter, on the activities
13 and accomplishments of the public awareness campaign.

14 Period poverty refers to the social, economic, political, and
15 cultural barriers to menstrual products, education, and sanitation.
16 Although period poverty is a widespread problem, there is a lack of
17 research on the topic. It is the sponsor's intent to promote
18 awareness of, and public actions to address, period poverty.

WITHDRAWN